CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of operating a printer, said method comprising:
providing a printer including a plurality of printer resources;
receiving a resource request at said printer, said resource request including a request for at least one of use and a right of use of a selected at least one printer resource;
operating said printer according to said resource request including at least one of use of and right of use of said selected at least one printer resource; and
initiating a payment transaction based on said operating step.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said printer initiates said payment transaction.

3. A method according to claim 2 wherein said printer includes a consumable element, said consumable element including a processing element initiating said payment transaction.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said selected printer resource comprises enhanced output produced by said printer relative to output produced without use of said selected at least one printer resource.

5. A method according to claim 4 wherein said selected at least one printer resource comprises a selected printer resolution.

6. A method according to claim 4 wherein said selected at least one printer resource comprises a selected printer throughput speed.

7. A method according to claim 1 wherein said selected at least one printer resource comprises access to a selected communication channel.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein said selected communication channel comprises at least one of an IR link and a network link.

9.   A printing system comprising:

printer control including a plurality of resources supporting operation of a printer, said plurality of printer resources comprising a first resource set and a second resource set;

5   print job control receiving a request relative to at least one of said plurality of printer resources; and

transaction control detecting said request and initiating a payment transaction for said request when said at least one of said plurality of printer resources is a member of said second set.

10

10.   A system according to claim 9 wherein said request comprises an incident of use for said at least one of said plurality of printer resources.

11.   A system according to claim 9 wherein said request comprises a period of

15   allowed right of access to said at least one of said plurality of printer resources.

12.   A system according to claim 9 wherein said request comprises a request to remove said at least one of said plurality of printer resources from said second set and place said at least one of said plurality of printer resources in said first set.

20

13.   A system according to claim 9 wherein said transaction control is located within said printer.

14.   A system according to claim 9 wherein said transaction control generates a use

25   report for delivery to a resource vendor.

15.   A system according to claim 9 wherein said at least one of said plurality of printer resources comprises enhanced output produced by said printer relative to output produced without use of said at least one of said plurality of printer resources.

30

16.   A system according to claim 15 wherein said at least one of said plurality of printer resources comprises a selected printer resolution.

17. A system according to claim 15 wherein said at least one of said plurality of printer resources comprises a selected printer throughput speed.

18. A system according to claim 15 wherein said at least one of said plurality of printer resources comprises access to selected communication channel.

19. A method of printer operation comprising the steps:

requesting a print job, said print job including use of a selected printer resource;

printing at a printer said print job including use of said selected printer resource; and

executing a payment transaction in favor of a resource vendor as a function of said print job.

20. A method according to claim 19 wherein said method further comprises reporting use of said selected printer resource to said resource vendor.